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Services

Introduction and Vision

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Brief Introduction



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Vision: Comprehensive and Coordinated System of Forensics and Diversion

- Statewide effort
- Multi-system coordination
- State and local governments
- All three branches of government
- Sequential Intercept Model as a framework
 - Six intercepts to divert individuals with mental and substance use disorders from the criminal justice system or provide specialized services in the criminal justice system



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Key Principles



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1. **A full continuum of care- from diversion to competency restoration to reentry and supervision is needed to for an efficient and effective forensic mental health system.**
2. The social determinants of health are also drivers of justice-involvement and should inform prevention, intervention, and diversion strategies.
3. Peers are valuable contributors to the behavioral health workforce and should be part of all efforts that address forensic and diversion services.
4. Disparities should be evaluated in forensic and diversion efforts to ensure state resources improve health and reduce justice-involvement.
5. The stigma of mental illness, as well as justice-involvement should be actively addressed through cultural change in the behavioral health and criminal justice systems.

We know what doesn't work



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National Competency to Stand Trial processes

- Incur significant costs for states and local governments
- Do not improve long-term health and social outcomes for individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorders

Cook County, IL Example

79 days in jails for a Class A misdemeanor = \$15,000

Total Costs to Taxpayers:

Arrest to discharge from the state hospital 7 months later = \$147,842

Cost if individual had been diverted to needed services and supports: \$97,200



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We know what works!

How do we tailor to Texas?

Intercept 0

- Crisis services, psychiatric emergency programs
- Crisis receiving and stabilization centers
- Mobile crisis response
- Housing
- Comprehensive services and supports

JCAFS Recommendations

- Expanding resources for a range of housing options for independent living and structured facility residences
- Early and easy access to services and supports.
- A robust system of peer services within each local service area
- Community-based options for individuals with co-occurring intellectual and developmental disabilities and behavioral health disorders.



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What Works (1 of 2)

Intercept 1 and 2

- Collaborative law enforcement and behavioral health pre-arrest/pre-booking diversion programs
- Law-enforcement friendly crisis receiving centers
- Prosecutorial diversion programs
- Mental health public defenders
- Specialized pre-trial programs
- Universal screenings at booking
- Jail diversion at booking

JCAFS Recommendations

- Continue to study and identify those LMHA's with Jail Outreach programs that are working and where pilot programs have been implemented. Identify best practices from those programs expand them to other areas of the state.
- Request funding to expand and implement jail diversion, outpatient and jail outreach programs and best practices across the state and align these recommendations with the report associated with SB 633



What Works (2 of 2)

Competency process

- JBCR and OCR
- Qualified evaluators and quality evaluations
- Triage system for forensic waitlist
- Prioritizing appropriate individuals for CST; diversion and dismissal as first options
- Data to drive accountability and efficiency

JCAFS Recommendations

- Continue and fully implement the “562 review process”
- Implement throughout the state hospital system the new Competency to Stand Trial report template
- Establish and implement a mechanism to monitor the timeframes for each of the six steps of the competency restoration process

Challenges are Opportunities



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- Coordinated strategy
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Statewide reach and scaling of policies and programs, especially to rural areas
- Education and awareness
- Culture change

Focus



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- Strategic plan
 - Prioritize transition points and cross-system coordination and support
- Building partnerships
- Scaling evidence-based and best programs and practices
- Data, performance outcomes, efficiencies, and effectiveness (including cost effectiveness)
- Training and technical assistance

Considerations



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- How does HHSC achieve a coordinated and comprehensive strategy for forensics and diversion?
- What is the role of HHSC and other state agency partners in the diffusion and uptake of evidence-based and best practices at the local level?
- What key activities are necessary to support uptake of evidence-based and best practices at the local level?
- What is the role of HHSC in these key activities?
- What resources are needed to support statewide systems change?



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Thank you

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